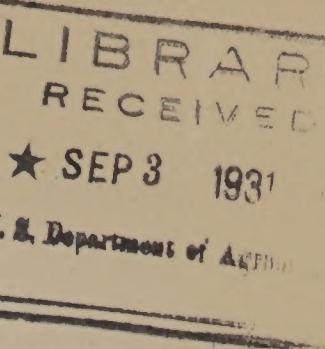


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MEETING - PROGRESSIVE GARDEN CLUB

A radio discussion by members of the Progressive Garden Club, W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, presiding, delivered through WRC and 42 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Tuesday, August 18, 1931.

ANNOUNCER:

Today, ladies and gentlemen of the Farm and Home Hour audience, we present another meeting of the Progressive Garden Club. The members are assembling in their meeting room. Farmer Brown has returned from his fishing trip, and from their laughter, I think Brown must be telling a fish story. Suppose we join them.

FARMER BROWN:

Now, maybe you don't believe that, but it's as true as the gospel. And bite - the way those fish did bite - why all you had to do was to bait your hook and drop it overboard and zip, they had it, great big fellows too.

CHAIRMAN:

How much did you say that big one in the picture weighed?

FARMER BROWN:

Oh! I don't know, but from the way it pulled on my line, I thought it weighed about forty or fifty pounds.

BETTY BROWN:

Well Daddy! You sure can tell a fishy story. But say, why didn't you bring that big fish home with you?

FARMER BROWN:

Well Betty, you see we were away up there on the lake, and we didn't have any ice to pack it in.

CHAIRMAN:

Well, Mr. Brown, we are glad you had a nice fishing trip, and also glad to have you back with us.

FARMER BROWN:

Yes, I had a good time and a real vacation, just the kind I've wanted to take for years, but I really am glad to be home again.

(over)

CHAIRMAN:

If there isn't Aunt Polly back from her mysterious trip. Hello Aunt Polly, give an account of yourself.

AUNT POLLY:

Oh! That's easy. I've been out where the tall corn grows. Where they have big farms with fine gardens and orchards, but I'm glad to get back home again.

CHAIRMAN:

We are glad to have you back with us. We missed you last meeting.

AUNT POLLY:

Well, I was listening and heard what you said about me.

CHAIRMAN:

Now folks, I did not arrange for a speaker today, nor for any special subject for our program. I just thought we might like to have a sort of family gathering, and discuss some of our home and garden problems among ourselves. Before I forgot, I want to show you some of the Marglobe and Break O'Day tomatoes from my garden. They are not quite as large as usual, but I don't believe anybody can beat them when it comes to smoothness and uniform color. How about it, Mrs. Brown?

MRS. BROWN:

No, we haven't any that will beat them, but I canned a bushel of Marglobe yesterday that were certainly fine, so little waste in them, and scarcely any trimming or core to take out.

AUNT POLLY:

Last week, while I was visiting my sister out in my old home State, I picked the most wonderful tomatoes in her garden. They were Break O'Day. She grew them from seed that I sent her last spring.

FARMER BROWN:

Our tomatoes are certainly fine this year, and what I like especially about the Marglobe is its smoothness and freedom from cracks. The manager of the cannery where I sell my tomatoes pays me a little premium for my Marglobe, because he says they give the least waste in canning of any tomatoes delivered to his factory.

MRS. BROWN:

Early in the season, I found several tomatoes in our garden that had holes eaten in them. Later, those tomatoes rotted about the time they began to ripen. I would like to know what kind of an insect it was that ate the round holes in my tomatoes?

CHAIRMAN:

Undoubtedly, it was the corn ear worm, the same worm that gets into the tips of the ears of sweet corn. When it is found in tomatoes, it is called the tomato fruitworm. It prefers sweet corn and so long as sweet corn is near by it will not trouble the tomatoes.

MRS. BROWN:

Well, what can I do for it?

CHAIRMAN:

Spraying the fruits with one ounce of powdered lead arsenate in three gallons of water will partially control it. In case you spray your tomatoes for the control of leaf blight you can add the lead arsenate to the Bordeaux Mixture and kill two birds with one stone. Hand picking the small, greenish worms is good in small gardens.

FARMER BROWN:

I've had some trouble for the past year or two with plant lice on my cabbage and turnips, especially on my turnips. You see, where I used to live down in Tennessee, we always considered August the month for planting fall turnips. Further south, they plant turnips as late as the first of October.

AUNT POLLY:

Out where I used to live, we always planted our turnips on the twenty-fifth of July. Remember the old saying, "On the twenty-fifth of July, plant turnips wet or dry?"

CHAIRMAN:

The time for planting turnips varies with the locality and with the season. It would have been useless for us here around Washington to plant any of our fall garden crops this year until the rains came.

FARMER BROWN:

Going back to that question of plant lice, I suppose nicotine dust or a nicotine spray is about the best remedy for the lice on my turnips and cabbage. These insects were very bad on my early turnips last spring.

CHAIRMAN:

Yes, some form of nicotine preparation is best for killing these sucking insects. In Farmers' Bulletin No. 1-3-7-1 on the Diseases and Insects of Garden Vegetables, the author says that in the case of aphids or plant lice that "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," and that the important thing is to catch and destroy the first of the scattered colonies to appear. When once established, these insects multiply so fast that they soon spread to the whole turnip patch. It is also very important that the nicotine dust or spray be applied to the under sides of the leaves where the aphids are mostly found, also that the poison come in direct contact with the bodies of the insects.

MRS. BROWN:

Changing the subject, I want to plant a border of Peonies this fall. Just when is the best time to plant them?

(over)

CHAIRMAN:

I am told by good authorities on Peony culture that the safest time to plant them is from September first until the ground freezes. You must remember that Peonies are by nature cold climate plants, but in spite of the fact that they do best under conditions where they become frozen in winter, they are being grown successfully in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and in southern California.

FARMER BROWN:

Now, I'll just bet I will have the job of getting the ground ready for Mary to plant her peonies, so I'd like a few pointers on how to prepare it.

CHAIRMAN:

The peony experts tell me that the holes should be dug about 18 inches deep and 18 inches wide. If the soil is poor, it should be hauled away and good soil used to fill up the holes. As the soil is being put into the holes, mix one-half pint of bone meal with the soil in each hole. Do not use barnyard compost, as it is liable to cause the peony roots to rot.

BETTY BROWN:

I have been told, or perhaps I read it somewhere, that peony roots should not be covered too deeply in planting. How deep should they be covered?

CHAIRMAN:

That is very important, as failure to bloom is often due to deep planting. Let us suppose that the holes have been dug and filled with good soil and allowed to settle, then when you come to planting your peony roots, you take out the soil to a depth of about four inches. Place the roots in the hole, well spread out and with the eyes exactly two inches below the level of the ground. Measure the depth of planting, don't guess at it. Firm the soil around the roots and soak it with water. You may mound the soil over the plants to provide drainage during the winter, but level it off before the plants start in the spring.

AUNT POLLY:

Seems to me peonies are rather particular about how they are handled.

CHAIRMAN:

Quite true, and yet peonies will tolerate more abuse than almost any other flower, but they do respond to good treatment. It is now time to get the ground in shape for planting peonies later.

BETTY BROWN:

Pansies are my favorite flower. Isn't this about the right time to plant the seed and start plants for next spring?

CHAIRMAN:

Yes, it is about the right time in the middle sections of the country, but plenty late for the northern part. How do you start your pansy plants, Betty?

BETTY BROWN:

Daddy makes a bed of fresh, sifted soil in one end of the cold-frame, then I sow the seed in little rows, and cover them very lightly. When the plants get large enough, we transplant them to a bed outdoors, or sometimes we leave the plants in the coldframe until early spring then transplant them.

CHAIRMAN:

I know of a lady who makes part of her spending money growing and selling pansy plants. In the spring of the year she lifts the blooming plants, places a dozen of various colors in four-quart splint boxes, and a neighbor sells them on his roadside market. She gets fifty cents a dozen for her plants, and some years she has three or four hundred dozen to sell.

AUNT POLLY:

AUNT POLLY:

I like bulbs that bloom early in the spring. It must be getting pretty near time for planting bulbs right now.

CHAIRMAN:

That's right, it will soon be time for planting daffodils and tulips, and several other kinds of bulbs. At least, it is time to be getting the ground in shape, and ordering your bulbs. Bulbs are often planted where summer flowering plants are growing, so very little can be done toward the actual preparation of the soil, but you can have compost and fertilizer ready.

BETTY BROWN:

I wish you could have seen my ten-cent flower garden when everything was blooming.

CHAIRMAN:

Your ten-cent flower garden! did you get it at the ten-cent store?

BETTY BROWN:

No indeed. You see, last spring at our school we bought penny packets of flower seeds, or a collection of ten kinds for ten cents. In my collection there were poppies, four-o'clocks, coxcomb, zinnias, sweet william, balloon vine, petunia - that's all I remember.

CHAIRMAN:

How did you plant them Betty?

BETTY BROWN:

I planted the ten kinds of seeds in a box of soil, then when the plants were big enough, and the weather was warm we planted them out in the flower garden. You would have been surprised to see how many flowers came out of that ten-cent assortment of seeds, and how I did have to pull weeds.

(over)

CHAIRMAN:

It really is surprising what a flower garden you can get from a few small packets of seeds. Now folks, in the short time we have left let us discuss a few of the things that we should do in our gardens and around our homes before winter catches us.

MRS. BROWN:

We want to move several of our shrubs this fall, when is the best time to do it?

CHAIRMAN:

Evergreens should be moved early so that they will make some new growth before cold weather. The deciduous shrubs, that is, those that shed their leaves, should not be moved until after they shed their leaves. In the South, these shrubs can be moved during the winter, while in the North they should be moved late this fall or early next spring.

MRS. BROWN:

We have a crepe myrtle tree in our yard, but it winterkills some winters. What can I do to protect it?

CHAIRMAN:

There is really very little you can do without going to a lot of trouble. The crepe myrtle really belongs in the South just as the snowball and the lilac are suited to the North. There are so many fine plants that are adapted to the various regions that it really does not pay to try to grow those that winterkill.

FARMER BROWN:

That is right. Why there are shrubs and plants growing wild in our woodlands and along our streams that are simply beautiful when planted in our shrubbery borders. Take the Rosemallow, for instance, it grows in swampy places in many parts of the Eastern United States. It can be grown on almost any good garden soil, if given a reasonable amount of moisture.

MRS. BROWN:

One of my friends in Maryland has a wonderful hedge of laurel along one side of her yard. It is beautiful at all times with its green foliage, and it is perfectly gorgeous when in bloom.

CHAIRMAN:

Take the Button Bush for example. It grows almost anywhere in the United States and makes a fine shrub. I prefer the ornamentals that are grown in a nursery, but many of us can get a very good collection of shrubs in our own woodlands and pastures and along our streams.

FARMER BROWN:

Going back to that matter of a good fall garden, I am planting plenty of turnips, fall radishes, spinach and lettuce. I have some trouble getting the seeds up at this time of the year, but I generally have my ground all ready then wait for a rain to plant. I sometimes start my lettuce plants in a special bed then transplant them.

CHAIRMAN:

That seems like considerable trouble, but you only need a couple hundred feet of row of fall lettuce. Some people think that fall lettuce does better if the seed is planted right where it is to grow, then thinned.

FARMER BROWN:

Another thing, I want to plant quite a few small fruits this fall and next spring to take the place of those I lost last year from the drought. I've never gotten my small fruit garden back to where it was before that drought.

CHAIRMAN:

You are not the only one Brown. The season of 1950 was a hard one on the home fruit gardens in many parts of the country, but from what I can learn the farmers all over the country are paying more attention to their gardens and to growing fruit for home use.

MRS. BROWN:

Yes, and it has been my observation that people are paying more attention to their lawns and to the planting of shrubbery and trees around their homes than they used to. I am sure that is true in our neighborhood.

FARMER BROWN:

And that reminds me that I must go by the seedstore and get about five pounds of lawn grass seed, and a bag of bone meal to patch up the weak spots in our lawn.

CHAIRMAN:

That is a good idea, but I would not advise any of you to apply any nitrate of soda or other readily available nitrogen to your lawn this late in the season, that is, unless you live in the South where there is still about three months for the grass to grow before cold weather. In the northern part of the country, you want the grass to sort of ripen before freezing weather.

Now folks, we have discussed quite a variety of subjects today, in fact, we have done just what we started out to do and have talked about the things to be done around our homes and in our gardens this fall. Our time is up but the members of the club are all going home and put some of the suggestions made today into practice. The meeting of the Progressive Garden Club will now adjourn and we hope you will all be with us next month.

